



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

April 16, 1998

H.R. 927

United States Marshals Service Improvement Act of 1998

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on March 26, 1998

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 927 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Because the act would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 927 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 and would have no impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

Under current law, U.S. Marshals are appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. H.R. 927 would establish certain qualifications that an individual must meet in order to be appointed a U.S. Marshal. For example, the individual would have to hold a bachelor's degree and have not less than 10 years of professional law enforcement experience. CBO estimates that establishing such qualifying criteria would have little or no impact on spending by the U.S. Marshals Service. H.R. 927 also would require the General Accounting Office (GAO) to conduct a study that would evaluate processes for selecting individuals to serve as U.S. Marshals. Based on information from GAO, CBO estimates that conducting this study would cost GAO less than \$500,000 in fiscal year 1999, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

On March 14, 1997, CBO prepared a cost estimate for H.R. 927, as ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on March 12, 1997. The House version of H.R. 927, which is quite different from the Senate version, would reduce costs for salaries and benefits of U.S. Marshals. CBO estimated that those reductions would save \$1 million in fiscal year 2001, \$2 million in fiscal year 2002, and \$3 million a year thereafter.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Susanne S. Mehlman. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.